

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 1, 5-8, 10-26, 52, 56-80 and 84-137.

Claims 2-4 and 53-55 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 5-8, 10-35, 37-52, 56-80 and 84-137 are now pending for examination.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 2-4, 27, 30-35, 37-51, and 53-55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 2-4, 20-41 and 43-45 respectively, of Kozhemyakin, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,312,734 ("Kozhemyakin").

Claims 2-4 and 53-55 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

With respect to independent claim 27, it is believed that this claim is not identical to claim 20 of Kozhemyakin. Independent claim 27 recites, in the last clause:

wherein A, B, D, E, G and H can be the same or different and each includes a unit selected from the group consisting of amine groups, carboxyl groups and amides.

In contrast, claim 20 of Kozhemyakin recites, in the last clause:

wherein A, B, D, E, G and H can be the same or different and each is selected from the group consisting of an organic unit and salts of the organic unit.

Thus, instant claim 27 and claim 20 of Kozhemyakin are not identical, and it is therefore believed that claim 27 should not have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Accordingly, withdraw of the rejection is respectfully requested.

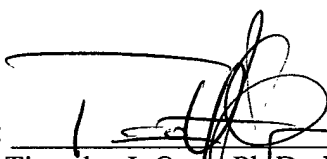
Dependent claims 30-35 and 37-51 each depend, directly or indirectly, from independent claim 27, and are believed to be allowable for at least these reasons. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of these claims also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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